

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 11th February 1888.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
BENGALI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Ahammadí"	Tangail, Mymensingh..	.....	30th January 1888.
2	"Kasipore Nibási"	Kasipore, Burrisal ...	.....	
Fortnightly.					
3	"Ave Maria"	Calcutta ...	.....	
4	"Gaura Duta"	Maldah ...	.....	
5	"Grambási"	Uluberia ...	.....	
6	"Púrva Bangabási"	Noakhally ...	.....	
7	"Purva Darpan"	Chittagong ...	700		
8	"Uttara Banga Hitaishi"	Mahiganj, Rungpore...	.....	
Weekly.					
9	"Arya Darpan"	Calcutta ...	102	3rd February 1888.	
10	"Bangabási"	Ditto ...	20,000	4th ditto.	
11	"Burdwán Sanjívani"	Burdwan ...	302	31st January 1888.	
12	"Cháruvártá"	Sherepore, Mymensingh	600	30th ditto.	
13	"Chattal Gazette"	Chittagong ...	.....	31st ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca ...	450	5th February 1888.	
15	"Dhumaketu"	Chandernagore ...	.....	3rd ditto.
16	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	825		
17	"Garib and Mahavidya"	Dacca ...	.....	1st ditto.
18	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	200		
19	"Jagatbási"	Calcutta ...	.....	2nd ditto.
20	"Murshidábád Patriká"	Berhampore ...	508	3rd ditto.	
21	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Ditto ...	.....	
22	"Navavibhákar Sádharani"	Calcutta ...	1,000	6th ditto.	
23	"Prajá Bandhu"	Chandernagore ...	995	3rd ditto.	

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI—concluded.				
<i>Weekly—concluded.</i>				
24	"Pratikár"	Berhampore	600	3rd February 1888.
25	"Rungpore Dik Prakash"	Kakiniá, Rungpore	205	2nd ditto.
26	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	1st ditto.
27	"Samaya"	Ditto	2,350	3rd ditto.
28	"Sanjivani"	Ditto	4,000	4th ditto.
29	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	800	27th January 1888.
30	"Saraswat Patra"	Dacca	400	
31	"Som Prakash"	Calcutta	1,000	6th February 1888.
32	"Srimanta Sandagar"	Ditto	.....	13th January 1888.
33	"Sulabha Samachar and Kusadaha"	Ditto	3,000	
34	"Surabhi and Patáká"	Ditto	700	
<i>Daily.</i>				
35	"Dainik and Samachar Chandriká"	Calcutta	7,000	5th to 9th February 1888.
36	"Samvad Prabhakar"	Ditto	200	2nd to 7th ditto.
37	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	
38	"Banga Vidyá Prakashiká"	Ditto	500	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca	.....	6th February 1888.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
40	"Kshatriya Pratiká"	Patna	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
41	"Aryavarta"	Calcutta	.....	4th ditto.
42	"Behar Bandhu"	Bankipore	.....
43	"Bharat Mitra"	Calcutta	1,500	
44	"Sár Sudhánidhi"	Ditto	500	30th January 1888.
45	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto	4,500	
46	"Hindi Samachar"	Bhagulpore	1,000	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
47	"Jam-Jahan-numá"	Calcutta	250	3rd February 1888.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
48	"Aftal Alum Arrah"	Arrah	.....
49	"Anis"	Patna	.....	30th January 1888.
50	"Gauhur"	Calcutta	196	
51	"Sharaf-ul-Akbar"	Behar	150	
52	"Al Punch"	Bankipore	.....	6th February 1888.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
53	"Akbar-i-darusaltanat"	Calcutta	340	31st January 1888.
<i>Daily.</i>				
54	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	212	1st to 8th February 1888.
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
55	"Taraka and Subhavartá"	Cuttack	.....
56	"Pradip"	Ditto	.....
57	"Samyabadi"	Ditto	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
58	"Utkal Dipiká"	Cuttack	200	
59	"Balasore Samvad Váhika"	Balasore	205	
60	"Sanskáraka"	Cuttack	200	
61	"Navasamvad"	Ditto	.....
62	"Uriya"	Balasore	.....
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
63	"Silchar"	Silchar	30th January 1888.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
64	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	450	30th ditto.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Prajā Bandhu*, of the 3rd February, thinks that the sending of a number of pioneers to Sikkim with the ostensible object of repairing the road which passes through that country to Thibet is only intended to furnish a pretext for making war on it. For who ever heard of an army corps being sent for such a purpose as that? The fact is that Sikkim has excited the cupidity of Englishmen, and they therefore want to annex that country. They may find it an easy thing to conquer Sikkim; but surely it behoves them to consider the justice of the step they are about to take. Englishmen! has pecuniary greed deprived you of your common sense? Do you not dread the ruin that you are courting for yourselves by committing such acts as these?

PRAJĀ BANDHU,
Feb. 3rd, 1888.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 31st January, hopes that the men who recently committed a theft at Moghultoli in Burdwan will be punished, and the constable, Janaki Singh, who caught one of the thieves at great personal risk should be adequately rewarded for his bravery.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
Jan. 31st, 1888.

3. The *Sanjivani*, of the 4th February, is extremely sorry that even Mr. Lambert's police administration has failed to put down fraudulent auction sales in Calcutta. The sales are carried on with the connivance of constables and jemadars. Mr. Lambert is requested to appoint some one who would be able to put down the grievance complained of.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 4th, 1888.

4. A correspondent of the same paper says that cows are being killed with extreme cruelty at Munsí's Bazar, Dhitesvara and other places in Southern Sylhet by *muchis* and other low caste people. The men stealthily enter into cow-houses at night, and after securing the mouths of the cows with muzzles or strings flay them alive. Several cows at Lakshmipur, Abiskandi, and other places have been killed in this atrocious manner. The head-constable of the Kamalganj outpost should look to the matter and find out the perpetrators of this cruelty.

SANJIVANI

5. The *Bangabasi*, of the 4th February, says that Mr. Clarke, District Superintendent of Police, Dacca, is unnecessarily harassing Baboo Parvati Nath Roy, Sub-Inspector of Police. Mr. Clarke is giving endless trouble to the Baboo. If the allegations made against Mr. Clarke in the *Hope* newspaper prove to be correct after a careful inquiry into the matter, he should be severely dealt with. It is hoped that Sir Stuart Bayley will order an enquiry into the matter and punish Mr. Clarke if he is found guilty.

BANGABASI,
Feb. 4th, 1888.

6. A correspondent of the *Dacca Gazette*, of the 6th February, complains of the prevalence of thefts at Kaligunge, one of the important centres of trade in Dacca, as the result of the inefficiency of the local chowkidars. Are the panchayet and the chowkidars asleep?

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

7. The *Srimanta Sadagar*, of the 13th January, says that the Sessions Judge of Dacca has unjustly come down upon Baboo Chandra Mohan Mukherji, the First Munsif of Munshigunge, simply

SRIMANTA SADAGAR,
Jan. 13th, 1888.

The Sessions Judge of Dacca and the First Munsif of Munshigunge.

because something appeared in the *Dacca Gazette* reflecting on his (the Judge's) character. Contrary to all British principles of conduct, the Judge has lent himself to an anonymous communication against the Munsif, sent to him by some wicked persons, and has, upon the mere hearsay statement of some malicious persons, reported to the High Court charging the Munsif with (1) not entering in his office diary the exact hour of his attendance at Court, and (2) with appropriating to himself the *barbardari* received by him in the mofussil when holding local enquiries. With reference to the first charge, the writer hears that the Munsif attends to his duties from an early hour in the morning to 9 A.M., and again from 12 o'clock noon to 7 P.M., disposing of a large number of cases every day. The writer is glad to find that the High Court has not entertained this charge. As regards the second charge, the writer is in possession of evidence which goes to entirely exculpate the Munsif from all blame. The Munsif never went to the mofussil except when the requirements of strict justice necessitated the holding of local enquiries. The cost of these enquiries was in all cases borne by the parties and duly entered in the decrees. These parties never raised any objection on that score, nor was there anything in the Munsif's conduct to justify the charge referred to. The question, however, may be asked, whether the sums so realized were deposited by means of court-fees. Well, mistakes may have been committed in consequence of a misapprehension of the real meaning of the rules; but the writer is aware that it is customary with Munsifs to go out into the mofussil, the parties bearing all costs. The writer knows that the First Munsif of Munshigunge always carried sufficient food with him whenever he went out, so that the parties had to pay only the actual cost of travelling, which never amounted to a very large sum. The Munsif has worked with distinction for 21 years under well-known District Judges (some of whom have since been honoured with seats on the Bench of the High Court), who have acknowledged his abilities, and he has on five several occasions acted as a Subordinate Judge and tried suits of the value of four to five lakhs. The Judge of Dacca has made a serious mistake in charging such a man with the misappropriation of a few rupees of *barbardari*. The Munsif is very well spoken of as a judicial officer. He is much liked in Munshigunge, where he last held his appointment, and in Eastern Bengal generally, for the fairness of his decisions. The writer hopes that the High Court will reinstate him.

SANSODHINI,
Jan. 27th, 1888.

8. The *Sansodhini*, of the 27th January, complains of the commission of grave irregularities in the service of summonses by the peons of Criminal Courts.

in Chittagong. Summonses are not served in time, and the parties summoned cannot therefore attend Court punctually. For this reason warrants have to be issued in many cases. The complainant has to bear the cost of the warrants, and the accused is unnecessarily subjected to trouble of giving bail for regular attendance. The authorities are requested to look to the dates on which summonses are delivered to the peons and to the dates on which they are served. If this is done, the cause of the irregularity herein complained of will be easily perceived. The fact is that in many cases peons do not go out to serve summonses until they have got a goodly lot thereof to serve at one and the same time; and thus the summonses first delivered to them for service remain unserved for a long time, and are therefore served so late that the parties summoned cannot attend at the appointed times.

CHATTAL GAZETTE,
Jan. 31st, 1888.

9. The *Chattal Gazette*, of the 31st January, says that the complaints regarding the unsatisfactory manner in which justice is dispensed in the Munsifs' Courts in the mofussil are growing more general. The man who has a small claim, say of Rs. 10, to establish, is required to spend double that

amount, and in spite of any evidence that he may bring forward in support of his claim, he fails to obtain justice in due time. Witnesses simply tire of appearing at Court, so frequently are cases put off; and when, after all, cases do come up for hearing, they often fail to appear. This leads to serious miscarriage of justice, because the non-attendance of witnesses is generally misconstrued by the Courts. The writer has come to know that the decisions of Munsifs in the mofussil are being continually sent back for reconsideration. More than 400 cases have been sent back to the Court of the Munsif of Sitakundu for re-trial.

10. The same paper says that Abdul Hamid, the head-clerk of the Chittagong Municipality, who was charged with embezzlement of municipal money, has, after being made to rot in *hajut* for three months, been committed to the Sessions. The Magistrate has exhibited a great deal of spite against this man by treating him as he has done. It is hoped that the Judge will decide Abdul Hamid's case without delay.

The case against the head-clerk of the Chittagong Municipality.

CHATTAL GAZETTE,
Jan. 31st, 1888.

11. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 6th February, objects to the curtailing of the Christmas vacation of the High Court from 12 to 3 days. As the National Congress holds its sittings during the Christmas holidays, the curtailment in question will make it almost impossible for barristers and pleaders practising in the High Court to take part in its proceedings.

The Christmas vacation of the High Court.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

(d)—Education.

12. The *Sansodhini*, of the 27th January, says that the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the disturbance in the Chittagong Madrassa have expelled 17 students, fined some, and suspended the Head Moulavi. It is not known whether the Director of Public Instruction has approved of this action of the Commissioners. If he has, then it must be observed that he has sacrificed the interests of the students in favour of the Superintendent of the institution. If it be the Director's opinion that the boys have really been guilty, surely they ought to be punished. But even in that case the punishment of expulsion will be a very hard one, as it will lead to a permanent rustication of the boys. As regards the Head Moulavi, he ought to have been transferred instead of being suspended. The enquiry has clearly brought out the fact that friendly relations do not exist between the Superintendent of the Madrassa and his students and the subordinate teachers. In the interests of the institution, the Superintendent should therefore be transferred.

The Chittagong Madrassa.

SANSODHINI,
Jan. 27th, 1888.

13. A correspondent of the *Cháruvartá*, of the 30th January, complains that the poor inspecting pandits and pathsala gurus of the Mymensingh district have not received their salaries and stipends for the last five months. These men serve in the Education Department on very low salaries, and it will be very unjust not to pay them regularly. It is hoped that the members of the Mymensingh District Board will look to the matter.

Inspecting pandits and pathsala gurus in Mymensingh.

CHARU VARTA,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

14. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 1st February, says that the Rajshahye College should be made one of the B.A. and B.L. Examination centres. A large number of students appear in those examinations from Rajshahye, and Rajshahye has also been for a long time a centre for the Entrance and F.A. Examinations. The candidates from Rajshahye for the B.A. and B.L. Examinations are put to great trouble and inconvenience during their temporary stay at Calcutta on the occasion of these examinations.

The B.A. and B.L. Examinations.

HIND RANJIKÁ,
Feb. 1st, 1888.

SAMAYA,
Feb. 3rd, 1888.

15. The *Samaya*, of the 3rd February, quotes the following inter-school rules proposed by the Education Commission:—“(1) That, except at specified times,

Three inter-school rules.
a pupil of one school be not admitted to another without a certificate from his previous school; (2) that any fees due to that school have been paid; and (3) that he do not obtain promotion to a higher class by changing his school,” and observes that though these rules are likely to advance the cause of education in one way, they are calculated to injure it in another. Suppose a boy in poor circumstances falls ill and is confined to bed for months together. His name, after being allowed to stand on the roll for the first month of his illness, is then struck off for non-payment of the school-fee. After his recovery the boy tries to get himself re-admitted. But the school authorities will not re-admit him unless he pays the fine prescribed for re-admission and school fees for current month and the month during which his name was allowed to stand on the roll. But the boy is unable to pay all this, and he therefore seeks admission in another school. But no other school will take him if the first two rules quoted above remain in force, and the boy will therefore have to give up his studies altogether.

As regards the third rule, suppose a boy reads in the third class of a school. His father, a poor Government officer on a small salary, wants to retire on pension after a year or so. He is therefore naturally anxious to procure a situation for his son in his office before retiring. He therefore asks his son to appear at the next Entrance Examination. The boy is an intelligent one, and has every chance of passing the examination. He asks the school authorities to put him in the Entrance class at the end of the current year. They refuse to do so, and the boy tries some other school. But the third rule, which provides that no boy shall obtain “promotion to a higher class by changing his school” stands in his way. The father takes his pension at the appointed time, and if his reduced income does not allow him to pay for the further education of his son, the poor fellow is compelled to give up his studies altogether.

PRAJA BANDHU,
Feb. 3rd, 1888.

16. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 3rd February, says that Government has at last perceived the necessity of imparting moral instruction in the Indian schools. But moral instruction in the schools will be ineffectual so long as it is not imparted by teachers who are themselves men of unexceptionable character.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 5th, 1888.

17. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 5th February, would like to know why the teachers of all schools, government and private, gave themselves a holiday on the occasion of the Brahmo Magh festival. Closing of the schools during the Brahmo anniversary festival.
The writer knows that some of these schools contain only one or two Brahmo teachers and students. Why should those who are not Brahmos be allowed a holiday for the sake of a handful of Brahmos?

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

18. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 6th February, recommends the abolition of Cooper's Hill College and asks Government to devote the money which will be thus saved to the purposes of technical education in the Seebpore Engineering College or any other similar institution in India. Cooper's Hill College and technical education in India.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
Jan. 20th, 1888.

19. The *Sársudhánidhi*, of the 20th January, says that, in consideration of the many objections that can be urged against the construction of the proposed road from Sealdah to the Hooghly Bridge.

Bridge, it is desirable to adopt a middle course, such as the widening of the Burtolla road and taking advantage of other existing thoroughfares in the proposed direction. It will not be well to do anything besides this, as the so-called commercial advantages of the proposed central road are pure moonshine. The plan proposed by the writer is a very practical and economical one.

20. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 5th February, says that the Dacca Municipality has ruled, in accordance with the provisions of the municipal law, that none but passed compounders will be employed in public dispensaries. But the writer thinks that the municipality ought to allow the services of old and well-tryed compounders, who are thoroughly able to hold their own against passed men, to be retained. Such men may be subjected to examination; but it will be fair and proper if the old and experienced men, who are able to produce certificates of competency from eminent physicians, are exempted from such examination. Government has shown similar favour to old and experienced men belonging to the legal and other professions.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 5th, 1888.

The Tangail Municipality.

21. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Tangail Municipality will not be of any service to the public so long as men holding posts in the local criminal courts are allowed to become its Commissioners. Every meeting of the municipality proves the correctness of this view. The writer requests the able District Magistrate to enquire into the internal condition of the Tangail Municipality. The fourth and fifth wards of that municipality should be detached from the other wards and constituted a separate municipality. Otherwise the money of the poor people of these two wards will be simply wasted in ministering to the whims of the Baboos of Tangail.

DACCA PRAKASH.

The Jamalpore Municipality.

22. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 6th February, says that while many residents of Jamalpore have been fined to the extent of Rs. 20, Rs. 30, and Rs. 50 for permitting foul water to flow upon the roads close to their houses, the *mehters* of the Jamalpore Municipality are permitted to do the same thing with impunity. The writer has seen a number of these *mehters* throwing foul water on the roads in the quarter known as Baidyapara in Jamalpore to the great annoyance of the residents of that part of the town, and he knows that some Municipal Commissioners have themselves seen the *mehters* do that sort of thing. But nothing has yet been done to stop the obnoxious practice.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

23. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 5th February, says that Mr. T. D. Beighton, the Judge of Dacca, is abusing the power conferred upon him by section 93 of Act VIII, of appointing managers to look after joint property. Some men, driven to desperation by the provisions of that Act, applied to him for the appointment of managers, with this result, that he put them to infinite trouble and expense, and finally rejected their applications without duly examining the truth or otherwise of their representations. Mr. Beighton has in this manner subjected many people to heavy pecuniary loss. The higher authorities should take Mr. Beighton to task for intentionally defeating the intention of the law. If it is his fixed determination not to appoint managers under section 93 of Act VIII, he should, to save people from unnecessary expense, give a formal notice to that effect. As a matter of fact, however, he not only summarily rejects applications for the appointment of managers, but awards good round sums as compensation to those who

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 5th, 1888.

The administration of Act VIII of 1885 in Dacca.

oppose such applications. If Government makes any delay in mending this state of things, something very serious will soon happen in that part of the country. People cannot suffer their property to go to ruin without making an attempt to save it. The East Bengal Zemindars' Association is requested to move in this matter.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

24. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 6th February, says that, in spite of section 74 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, extra abwabs are realized from the tenants in Bhastara, in the district of Hooghly. A gentleman has got into a scrape in protesting against the realization of such illegal cesses. The zemindar does not take the rent due from that gentleman when he offers to pay it, but continually sues him for rent due. Whatever laws Government may make, the rule will hold good that they should take who have the power, and they should keep who can.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

SANSODHINI,
Jan. 27th, 1888.

25. The *Sansodhini*, of the 27th January, says that there are two routes by which boats can come to the town of Chittagong from Cox's Bazar. One of these is through the canal, and the other lies over the sea. Big cargo boats fear to take the sea route, and generally prefer the canal route. But big boats block the canal in such a way that small passenger boats cannot pass through it. The boatmen of these large cargo boats are a very insolent set of people, and they cause great annoyance to the smaller boats. The authorities are requested to remove the public grievance arising from this source by constructing harbours in the canal and making it penal for the boatmen of big cargo boats to anchor anywhere except in such harbours. Cargo boats should not also be allowed to use the canal route in fair weather without some special reason.

CHATTAL GAZETTE,
Jan. 31st, 1888.

26. The *Chattal Gazette*, of the 31st January, says that some respectable men of Chittagong are about to present a memorial to the local municipality praying that the Katalgunge road may be metalled. This road is in a very deplorable condition, and the municipal authorities should comply with the request of the memorialists.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 31st, 1888.

27. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 31st January, asks the authorities to repair the road from Paratal to Harala. The road in question has not been repaired for a long time, and has therefore become impassable.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 1st, 1888.

28. The *Sahachar*, of the 1st February, says that a steam tramway is contemplated which will run from Howrah to Sheakhala *via* Janai. The writer hopes that Raja Piyari Mohun Mookerji's prayer for such a tramway will be granted by Government.

SAHACHAR.

29. The same paper hears with regret that Government will in future undertake the working of the East Indian Railway line. Railways do not work well under Government management. The existing arrangement should be maintained.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
Feb. 2nd, 1888.

30. A correspondent of the *Rungpore Dik Prakash*, of the 2nd February, says that the Road Cess Committee will pay the cost of constructing a railroad, 24 miles long, from the Hilley station on the Northern Bengal State Railway to Kaligunge ghat on the Brahmaputra. The construction of the road commenced in December last. In order to make this road wide and straight, a good many houses and gardens and

sugarcane plantations have been done away with, and the District Engineer, Baboo Ashutosh Lahiri, is requested to deal fairly by the owners. The old road near the house of Kashi Nath Gupta, the deceased zemindar of Tulsighat, is for some distance far from straight. It will therefore be better to carry the railroad from the western side of Tulsighat along the southern bank of the river, where the ground is higher and the cost of construction will therefore be less heavy. If the road is taken round Kashi Nath's house and through the Bundur, it will cross two *pucca golas* and a *peepul* tree dedicated to a goddess; and to destroy the *peepul* tree will be to seriously wound the religious feeling of the people of that place.

31. The *Bangabasi*, of the 4th February, agrees with Lord Salisbury in

Mismanagement in State Railways.

thinking that railways are better managed by private companies than by the State. The affairs of the Eastern Bengal Railway have been grossly mismanaged under direct Government control. The time-table is constantly changed, and trains do not arrive in due time. A sufficient number of carriages is not attached to the trains, and consequently there is overcrowding therein. Passengers find no accommodation in the trains for which they buy tickets. Third class passengers are pushed into intermediate class compartments to the great inconvenience of the intermediate class passengers, and intermediate class passengers are accommodated in third class carriages. Such things happen daily in the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and the authorities take no notice thereof. The pilgrims on the occasion of the last *Maghi Purnima*, were subjected to great inconvenience and hardship. They were conveyed in carriages used to carry goods. The Bengalis are a gentle and peace-loving people, and that is why the pilgrims silently brooked the insult which was done to them on that occasion. As the Bengalis do not institute legal proceedings against Government for wrongs suffered by them on the railways, Government ought of its own motion to take the matter up and remove their grievances. But no remedy against railway oppression has been found since the lines have come under Government management.

BANGABASI,
Feb. 4th, 1888.

32. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 6th February, says that *mahajans* taking delivery of goods at the

A railway grievance.

Goalundo ghât on the Eastern Bengal State Railway are put to much trouble and expense in consequence of the delay which is made by the railway people in making over their goods and of their refusal to carry those goods to the river bank according to contract. The writer is an eye-witness to such unfair proceedings on the part of the railway employés at Goalundo, and begs the authorities to look to the matter.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

33. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 6th February, supports the memorial presented to Government by the

The Gewankhali tidal canal.

people of Natshal and Rajchak, in per-gunnah Mahisadul, in Midnapore, in the matter of the canal and reservoir proposed to be constructed in connection with the Gewankhali tidal canal, and says that if the sites selected for the proposed canal and reservoir are not slightly altered, the people there will be subjected to serious hardship and inconvenience.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

(h)—General.

34. The *Anis*, of the 30th January, says that, instead of meeting the deficit in the Budget by imposing heavy

The deficit in the Budget.

taxes on the impoverished population of this country, a juster plan will be to levy an import duty on foreign goods, or, at any rate, on alcoholic drinks. If this course is adopted, the deficit in the Budget will be made up and drinking habits will be discouraged.

ANIS,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

SARACHAR,
Feb. 1st, 1888.

35. The *Sahachar*, of the 1st February, says that, practically speaking, it will be absurd to maintain that the increase of the salt duty will increase the sufferings of the poor. Those who can manage to procure rice may easily obtain a little salt. They may even do without salt. A man who earns four annas daily has only to buy half a pice worth of salt. Out of the 21 crores of the population of British India, 20 crores will feel perfectly happy if they can procure rice alone. The number of those that indulge in rich food is very few indeed. A man purchasing rice and *dhal* from a *mooder* generally gets a little salt for the mere asking.

Salt is not required for cattle in this country to such an extent as it is in Europe, where grass and hay are deficient in saline properties.

Consumption of salt will increase, as heretofore, with the increase of population. The decrease of the salt duty in 1882 no doubt created a larger demand for salt. But that is no argument against the increase of the salt duty; for anything—even the common earth—will be in increased demand if it is cheapened.

The increase of the salt duty has not caused dissatisfaction, but it has been effected in a manner which is very objectionable. It has been stated that if any previous intimation of the Government's intention to increase the salt duty had been given, salt dealers might have monopolised the commodity in a way which would have been highly detrimental to the public. But would Lord Dufferin have ventured to offer such an explanation in England? When Lord Ripon diminished the salt duty, he did not act in an underhand manner, and yet no serious consequences followed his action. The writer fails to understand why danger was apprehended in the present instance. To raise the price of salt in anticipation of its becoming cheaper, and to purchase it cheap in view of an expected rise in its value, amount to the same thing. As a matter of fact, however, many people did get an inkling of the Government's intention to increase the salt duty. The salt dealers of the Punjab had sent their agents all over the country to buy up large quantities of the commodity. It is therefore extremely impolitic to violate an established principle of the administration in the vain hope of avoiding what is inevitable. As Lord Dufferin has had recourse to legislation for the purpose of imposing a duty on kerosine-oil, it is to be presumed that His Excellency has since found out his mistake, and he is really to be congratulated if he has so soon discovered his error. Lord Dufferin's desire to please all classes of Her Majesty's subjects and to respect public opinion is apparent in all his actions.

It would have been very well if the desirability or otherwise of raising the salt duty had been discussed in the Legislative Council. The people are not now against the increase, and they would not have been against it if it had been discussed in the Council. It is very necessary that matters like this should be openly discussed. Indeed, the greater the chance of popular opposition to any measure, fiscal or other, the stronger is the necessity of consulting the opinion of the people about it. Not to consult the people in matters of income and expenditure is to create discontent among them. The people of India now desire to have a voice in matters affecting their pecuniary interests. And as laws and regulations are now discussed in the Legislative Council, so must all matters relating to income and expenditure be discussed in that Council. It is the desire of all India that this salutary change in the administrative system should be speedily brought about; and if the Government of India recommend it, the British Parliament will doubtless sanction it.

SARACHAR.

Separation of the Judicial and Executive functions.

36. The same paper says that the Madras High Court has recommended to the Government the separation of the judicial and executive functions. The Government has acknowledged the wisdom of

the recommendation, and promised to carry it into effect as far as it can. The writer will be glad to see this promise fulfilled. Government is of opinion that police oppression will decrease with the increase of education in the country. The writer cannot accept this view as perfectly sound. The whole country will never receive high education, nor will the mild disposition of the people of India entirely change. The diffusion of education is, moreover, a question of time. But the evil of combining executive and judicial powers has already assumed an aggravated form, and it has become necessary to find immediate remedy for it. And the only remedy will consist in making Magistrates do nothing but their legitimate work of trying criminal cases. If this change requires additional expenditure, the people will be prepared to meet it. But if the change is skilfully made, it will not involve much expenditure of money. Let there be one Magistrate for every two districts, and let him only try criminal cases. And let there be one Collector for every two districts, and let him attend to other matters relating to the district. Or the duty of trying cases may be left in the hands of a Joint-Magistrate or a Deputy Magistrate, one such working for two districts. And, if necessary, the number of Deputy Magistrates may be increased by about eight or ten. If it is possible to effect this reform without incurring any additional cost, well and good; if not, the people will be prepared to supply the money that may be required for effecting it. While there is so much useless expenditure in other directions, it will not do to be close-fisted in an important matter like this. It will not also do to leave the work of trying criminal cases in the hands of Honorary Magistrates. That work cannot be satisfactorily performed except by men who have received regular legal training, and there are, as everybody knows, no such men among the present race of Honorary Magistrates.

37. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 1st February, says that the rich and well-to-do people will not be affected by the raising of the price of salt by one pice

The increase of the salt duty.

per seer. But to the poorer classes, who are most numerous, this increase of the price of salt will be a great hardship. The action of Government in increasing the salt duty has been neither just nor politic. The people have no voice in the administration of the country's finances. There would not have been the Burmese war, for instance, if the people had been consulted about it. And this Burmese war has led to the expenditure of vast sums of Indian money, causing a deficit in the Indian treasury, for which Government is imposing fresh taxes on the people. Those who counselled this war ought therefore to replenish the treasury with their own money. And has the Government dealt fairly by the people in increasing the salt duty without telling them beforehand that it intended doing so?

HINDU RANJIKA,
Feb. 1st, 1888.

38. The *Jagatbasi*, of the 2nd February, says that large sums of money have been recklessly expended in the Burmese war, and in order to meet the deficit

The increase of the salt duty.

in the Indian exchequer caused by this heavy expenditure, Government has decided to increase the duty on salt. Now salt enters largely into the composition of the meal which is eaten by the poor Indian, and an increase of the salt duty will therefore intensify the poor Indian's sufferings. The proposed increase of the salt duty means the raising of the price of salt by one pice per seer—a rise which to the poor Indian will be attended with serious inconvenience. England is waging wars for the purpose of extending her territories and for the benefit of English traders, and the poor Indian must pay all the expenses of those wars. Excellent policy this! The rulers of India are unacquainted with the real condition of the people of the country. The Viceroy himself spends the best part of the year on

JAGATBASI,
Feb. 2nd, 1888.

the hills, and has therefore very little opportunity of seeing or enquiring personally into the real condition of the people, and for the people to bring their wants and grievances to his notice is next to impossible. If the Viceroy had possessed any real knowledge of the extent of the country's poverty, he could not have raised the duty on salt. If it was necessary to impose any new tax or increase an existing one, why was not the import duty on liquor increased? A large quantity of liquor is annually imported into this country, and an increase of the duty now levied on it, whilst yielding enough money to Government, would not have added to the sufferings of the Indian poor, as this increase of the salt duty will.

PRAJA BANDHU,
Feb. 3rd, 1888.

39. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 3rd February, says that it was rumoured some days ago that Sir Lepel Griffin had incurred the displeasure of Lord

Lord Dufferin and Sir Lepel Griffin.

Dufferin on account of his anti-Bengali speech at Lascarpur. And the *Mirror* newspaper now says that His Excellency the Viceroy knew the real character of Sir Lepel long since, and that, when Lord Cross recommended Sir Lepel for the Lieutenant-Governorship of the Punjab, His Excellency opposed the recommendation. If this be true—if, that is, His Excellency feels convinced of the guilt of Sir Lepel—how is it that Sir Lepel still remains unpunished? Or may it be that His Excellency is not sincere in his expression of displeasure regarding Sir Lepel, and only administers him a rebuke now and then by way of humouring public opinion, which, he knows, is decidedly against Sir Lepel?

PRATIKAR,
Feb. 3rd, 1888.

40. The *Pratikár*, of the 3rd February, says that, in order to make up the anticipated deficit in the next year's budget, Government has, with one stroke of

The duty on salt and kerosine-oil.

the pen, increased the duty on salt, and is about to pass an Act imposing an import duty on petroleum. By repeatedly committing acts of injustice of this kind, Government is increasing the misery of the people of India.

PRATIKAR,

41. The same paper is glad to find that the Lieutenant-Governor has commuted the sentence of transportation for life passed on Sadhu Sahu, of Cuttack, to one

The case of Sadhu Sahu.

of five years' rigorous imprisonment. The high-minded Sir Steuart Bayley has done a really good act by respecting public opinion, and his subjects therefore may well be proud of him.

SAMAYA,
Feb. 3rd, 1888.

42. The *Samaya*, of the 3rd February, says that as kerosine-oil is used even by the poor in this country, the imposition of an import duty upon it will be a

The proposed duty on kerosine-oil.

source of hardship to them. Though no duty has yet been imposed on kerosine, still its price has already gone up. Government should carefully consider the condition of the poor.

SAMAYA.

43. The same paper says that undue advantage has been taken of the increase of the salt duty by salt-dealers

The increase of the salt duty.

in this country, who have more than doubled the price of that article. In the mofussil, salt is selling at ten pice per seer, though it ought to sell at seven pice per seer. Had such a thing occurred in a Native State, the salt-dealers would have been summoned to the cutcherry of the ruler and punished for unlawfully increasing the price. But as such summary justice is not to be thought of in British India, Government ought to warn village shop-keepers, by beat of drum, against selling salt at an improper price, and to ask the Divisional Commissioners to report on the current bazar prices of that article.

ARYA DARPAN,
Feb. 3rd, 1888.

44. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 3rd February, says that the Government will make the people miserable by its

The duty on kerosine-oil.

increase of the duty on salt and by its imposition of a duty on all petroleum imported into this country. Many people

prefer to use kerosine-oil because it is cheap and burns brightly. The imposition of a duty on it will therefore inconveniently affect the middle and poorer classes. The Government is determined not to reduce the expenditure of the Empire. Its income is about 80 crores, and yet it goes on imposing fresh taxes. The fact is that those who are entrusted with the government of this country do not care to reduce expenditure and know not how retrenchment can be effected. They therefore continually harass and grind down the poor with a multiplicity of taxes.

45. Referring to the Petroleum Bill, the *Urdu Guide*, of the 3rd February, says that the Government is doing its best to impose fresh imposts without once seriously endeavouring to curtail expenditure. The Public Service Commission has also proved a farce. When will the Government learn to respect public opinion?

URDU GUIDE,
Feb. 3rd, 1888.

46. The *Sanjivani*, of the 4th February, has the following on the increase of the salt duty:—

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 4th, 1888.

The other day, in the course of his speech in the Viceregal Council, the Hon'ble Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee said that the salt duty will not touch even the poorest Indian in such a manner as to cause him hardship or inconvenience. Now, a statement of this kind, coming as it does from one who, like the Hon'ble Member, is one of the richest men in the country, need excite no wonder. But it is matter for wonder that such a man as the Hon'ble Member, who evidently cares to know nothing about the condition of his suffering countrymen, should be looked upon by Government as a representative of the people. Accepting this statement of the Hon'ble Raja as correct, Government thinks that the increase of the duty will do no harm to anybody. But if there had been any system of legislative representation at work in this country, Government would have seen that the Hon'ble Peary Mohun was not what he is now—a Member of the Viceregal Council.

It may be easily shown that, in consequence of this increase of the salt duty, every family will have to pay 12 annas more every year on account of this duty than they paid before the increase.

This means that families with a monthly income of Rs. 4—and the number of such families is very large in this country—will henceforth have to pay one pice more in the rupee as a tax. Surely, if this be not a just cause for complaint, the Hon'ble Raja ought not to grudge or grumble if he has to pay one pice more per rupee on his annual income in the shape of a tax. But let Government only make the proposal to increase the income-tax at present levied on the zemindar class at the rate of one pice per rupee, and it will see what sort of language the measure elicits from the Hon'ble Rajah.

When the income-tax was first proposed, His Excellency the Viceroy distinctly stated that in view of the fact that the poor had up to that time borne the principal share of the taxation of the country, he was unwilling to increase their burden by increasing the duty on salt, and that nothing but the occurrence of some extraordinary contingency, such as war or famine, would induce him to increase a duty which falls chiefly on the poor. But is that word of His Excellency kept in this increase of the salt duty in a time of peace?

Mr. Westland's attempt to exonerate the Viceroy from all blame in the matter must be pronounced to be a failure. He said that before increasing the burdens of the poor it was necessary to ascertain whether the rich had their proper share in the taxation of the country, and when this had been ascertained, as in the present case, there could be no harm in

advancing a step further and imposing a little burden on the poor. This shows that Mr. Westland imagines that the rich have been properly taxed. But has he ever taken the trouble to ascertain whether what he imagines to be true is true or not? If he has not, how can he say that the rich have been properly taxed?

There are those who earn Rs. 4 per month, and if the consumption of salt in their families be 5 seers per month, they must pay 5 annas in the shape of salt duty, or, in other words, 5 pice for every rupee they earn. There are those, again, and their number is not inconsiderable, whose monthly income does not exceed Rs. 2, and their share of liability in this salt taxation will be still more heavy. And now Mr. Westland should be asked to say how much tax per rupee he himself pays? Is there any man among the rich in this country who pays taxes at the rate of 5 pice per rupee?

The fact is that the rich in this country, instead of being adequately taxed, do not even pay as much tax as the poor do. Before the imposition of the income-tax in 1886, the amount which the rich people used to pay in the shape of taxes was not even worth reckoning. And even with the income-tax, their burden of taxation, compared with that of the poor, is very light, and yet the rich strongly protested against the imposition of the income-tax! The poor have no means of making their complaints heard, and that is why a fresh burden has been thrown on their already overburdened shoulders.

The policy of imposing import duties is not a good policy. Still, if it be necessary to impose new taxes, such taxation should take the form of import duties on articles which are used only by the rich. Mr. Westland has not dared to state what his objections are against the imposition of import duties on fine silken and cotton fabrics. The fact is, fear of the Lancashire weavers has prevented Government from imposing duties of that kind. So much for the courage of the Government! And yet Mr. Westland spoke of the financial policy of the Government in terms of approbation. He in fact challenged the public to point out a single item in the expenditure of the Empire which could be reduced. Now, it may be asked in this connection, have all the recommendations of the Army Commission been given effect to? Mr. Westland will probably reply that some have already been given effect to, and, as for the rest, they are still under the consideration of Government. But where would be the harm of defraying the additional expenditure of Government by a loan until the subject of army reform was finally disposed of? Has Mr. Westland been able to demonstrate the necessity of increasing the salt tax in such unseemly haste? The deficit in the next year's budget will amount to two crores of rupees. And that deficit, instead of being met, as has been done, by means of additional taxation, might have been met in the following way:—

- (1) Cooper's Hill College might have been abolished, and the sale of the College buildings, together with the grounds, would have fetched something like 70 lakhs.
- (2) Another 70 lakhs might have been raised by a loan, and the interest on that loan might have been paid with the Rs. 2,60,000 now annually remitted to England for the maintenance of Cooper's Hill College.
- (3) By paying in rupees instead of in pounds the amount annually remitted to England for the purpose of paying the pensions of retired officers, a fund might have been raised sufficient to cover the interest on another loan of 60 lakhs required for making up the total deficit of two crores.

As the deficit in question has been caused chiefly by the Burmese war, and the operations undertaken for the purpose of strengthening the defences of the North-Western Frontier, and as the advantage accruing from both these measures will be reaped by men of all generations—the present and future—in India, it is but just that both present and future generations of Indians should bear the burden of the expenditure incurred on this account. And as a loan is the only means by which future generations can be made jointly liable with the present generation, it is by means of a loan, and not by additional taxation, that this deficit should have been met.

47. The *Bangabasi*, of the 4th February, says that financial difficulties have compelled Government to increase the duty on salt. But could not the money required

The increase of the salt duty.

by Government have been raised in many other ways? Certainly it could have been. But Government looks more to the interests of English merchants than to those of its native subjects. Hundreds of articles of luxury are imported to India whose use is doing more harm than good to the people. An import duty levied on those articles would have served the interests of both the rulers and the ruled. But Government is unwilling to allow the interests of English merchants to suffer any harm, and no import duty has therefore been imposed. This one-sided financial policy of Government is destroying the best interests of India.

BANGABASI,
Feb. 4th, 1888.

48. The same paper says that India has no control over the Home charges, which are very heavy. The Secretary of State for India has 15 Councillors, and,

Waste of Indian money in England.

over and above the pensions which these 15 Councillors receive for their Indian service, they draw ten thousand rupees every year out of the exhausted Indian treasury. Waste of this kind would never have been tolerated in the office of any other English minister, and if committed would undoubtedly have given rise to rebellion or disturbance. The office establishment of the Secretary of State for India is very large, and no attempt is ever made to reduce it. Indian money is, in fact, recklessly spent in England, as the following statement will show :—

BANGABASI.

(1) A large building has been constructed for the Secretary of State for India at a cost of one crore of rupees. Taking exchange into account, this one crore amounts to one-and-a-half crores. The money required for the construction of this building has been raised in England by means of a loan, and India has to pay interest on that loan. But the building is not India's property. It is England's property. It is therefore contrary to justice and morality to saddle India with this expenditure.

(2) The constant movement of troops between England and India involves enormous expenditure of money. A man-of-war has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,25,00,000 for the transport of troops from England to India and *vice versa*. Taking exchange into account, this one-and-a-quarter crores amounts to nearly two crores. This sum, too, has been raised in England by means of a loan, and India pays the interest due on it. But this man-of-war is not used for Indian purposes only. It is also used for transporting troops to the Colonies. And yet the annual cost of maintaining this vessel in working order, which amounts to 40 lakhs, is paid by India.

(3) It has been repeatedly pointed out that a large sum of money is recklessly expended for the purpose of maintaining Cooper's Hill College. The men who come out of this college are employed not only in India, but in other British possessions, and they also drive out those Indians who are turned out by the Engineering Colleges in this country. And it is owing to this Cooper's Hill College that the Engineering Colleges in India have suffered so much deterioration. And in spite of all this, it is India that pays Cooper's Hill College all its ways and means.

There are many other ways besides these in which Indian money is literally wasted. But there is no one to listen to this tale of India's sorrow. England, who rules India, is strong, and India is weak.

BANGABASI,
Feb. 4th, 1888.

49. A correspondent of the same paper says that letters are delivered at Jorepukar, a village in the Pubna district, through the Dulai post-office. The village is situated at a distance of only one mile from the post-office; still letters are not regularly delivered there. The postman never comes to the village. He leaves all letters for Jorepukar with any man of the village whom he meets at the Dulai *hāt*. The matter was brought to the notice of the Post-master, but to no purpose.

A postal grievance.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

50. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 6th February, does not agree with the *Pioneer* newspaper in thinking that the present system of appointing the members of the Viceregal Council by nomination is the best that could be followed. The *Pioneer* points to the Maharaja Jotindra Mohun Tagore, Rajah Durga Charan Law, late Baboo Kristo Das Pal, Mr. Viswanath Mandalik, Sir Dinshaw Petit, and Sir T. Madhao Rao, as proving the excellence of the nomination system. In saying this the *Pioneer* no doubt speaks the truth, but it does not speak the whole truth. For though the gentlemen whose names are quoted are all very able men, their number is considerably exceeded by those worthless men who have up to this time been appointed members of the Viceregal Council. If the elective system is introduced into that Council, the proportion of worthless members will diminish, and that is why Government is asked to speedily introduce that system.

Nomination of members to the Viceregal Council.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANÍ,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

51. The *Navavibhakar Sádharaní*, of the 6th February, does not find fault with the procedure followed by Government in increasing the salt duty. This is not the first time that this procedure has been adopted, and the law sanctions this procedure. The writer emphatically asserts, however, that the Government has acted very unjustly in increasing the salt duty. It is not proper for Government to trample upon the poorer classes simply because they do not know how to express their thoughts and feelings.

The increase of the salt duty.

The price of salt has now risen from five pice per seer to six pice—a rise which will, in spite of what a few ignorant men may say, seriously affect the poorer classes. Salt is an indispensable ingredient of their food, which consists of rice and water.

The physique of the people of India generally, and of the poorer people in particular, is gradually deteriorating, and this deterioration of their physique has been ascribed by eminent Europeans to the fact that they cannot get enough salt to eat. The deterioration of cattle in this country is also due to the same cause. Agriculture also suffers in this country because the soil does not receive enough salt as manure, and that is why Government has promised a reward for the discovery of some cheap

but inedible salt for agricultural use. The cheapening of edible salt might in some measure help agriculture. But Government will not listen to reason or argument. Its mind is occupied with Burmah on the east and Quetta on the west, and its only thought is to obtain money by hook or by crook.

The Finance Minister has said that the money that has hitherto been spent in Burmah and the North-Western Frontier is not enough, and more money is wanted for that purpose. The writer will urge in reply that India has nothing to do with the expenses incurred in Burmah. The argument that Burmah is a part and parcel of the Indian Empire carries no conviction of any kind to the mind of the writer, who finds that India and Burmah are very differently treated in the matter of taxation and in other respects. The fact is, India is treated by the Government as a veritable milch-cow.

52. The *Som Prakash*, of the 6th February, does not object so very much to the increase of the salt duty, but

The increase of the salt duty.

is not satisfied with the manner in which the increase has been brought about. No Bill was introduced for the purpose in the Viceregal Council, nor was any notice given to the public about it. What is the meaning of all this? Does this justify the profession so often made by Government that it does nothing without consulting popular opinion? Irregularity of proceeding of this kind on the part of the rulers of this country is becoming so frequent that the public is getting disgusted with the British *Raj*. The impartial, high-minded and kind-hearted Queen is also having her good name tarnished through these wrong-doings of her officers. The Viceroy, being Her Majesty's representative, whatever he does is naturally taken to be done by her or with her permission.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

53. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 6th February, says that by commuting the sentence of transportation for life passed on Sadhu Sahu

Sadhu Sahu.

to one of five years' rigorous imprisonment, Sir Steuart Bayley has given evidence of his possession of a kind and sympathetic heart. Though it would have been better if the sentence had been still further reduced, still the public are obliged to His Honour for such mercy as he has shown to poor Sadhu Sahu.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

54. The same paper says that the government of this country is carried on in utter disregard of public opinion, and mentions the following by way of illustration :—

Government in defiance of public opinion.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

- (1) The salt duty has been increased by an executive order, and no attempt has been made to sound the opinion of the masses on this subject.
- (2) On the Municipal Boards, the Commissioners do everything in their own way, and do not pay the slightest heed to the interests of the poor.
- (3) The proposals relating to the construction of a new road through the heart of the town of Calcutta, and to the extension of the municipal area of the town, have been made and carried in utter disregard of public opinion, and without any thought as to whether those proposals, if carried out, will benefit the poor people of the country or not.
- (4) The native members of the Legislative Councils, being always in a minority, can never influence the decisions of those Councils, and they are therefore useless as representing the views of the people.

AL PUNCH,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

55. *Al Punch*, of the 6th February, gives a cartoon in which the Indian Government is represented as a man bending under the weight of a monster representing the North-Western frontier expenses, with a weight suspended from his neck, representing the expenses of the Burmese war, and a sack in each hand one, showing the amount spent in the pay and pension of the civilians, and the other exhibiting the large sums which are spent by the Anglo-Indians in luxurious habits.

A cartoon.

DAINIK AND SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 8th, 1888.

56. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 8th February, says that the clerks in Government offices are being gradually deprived of the privileges which they formerly enjoyed. Formerly they could easily transfer their services from one office to another; but it has now been ruled that they will not be allowed to do so without the permission of the office masters under whom they may be serving, and that if they get employment elsewhere without such permission they will be liable to dismissal and their past service will not count towards pension. It will be easy for Europeans to obtain the necessary permission, but it will be very difficult for poor natives to get it. The condition of the clerks in Government offices is already very miserable, and the operation of this rule will make it still more so.

Clerks in Government offices.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
Jan. 20th 1888.

57. The *Sar Sudhanidhi*, of the 20th January, will be sorry if the Calcutta Municipal Bill, now before the Bengal Council, is passed in its present objectionable form. The proposal to pay Commissioners and many other provisions of the Bill are calculated to set class against class, and to give rise to the belief that the English rulers of India think that the country cannot be well governed except by creating discord among the different races inhabiting it. The provision of the Bill relating to licenses for horses and carriages is also a very objectionable one. Armed with such powers as the Bill proposes to invest them with, the servants of the municipality will prove a veritable nuisance to the general public.

The Calcutta Municipal Bill.

SAMACHAR,
Feb. 1st, 1888.

58. The *Samachar*, of the 1st February, says that it is shameful that while the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades' Association, and the Port Commissioners have been empowered by the new Municipal Bill to return a certain number of Commissioners to the Calcutta Municipality, the same privilege has not been extended to any of the native associations. Recourse is had to this unjust device in order to increase the number of European Commissioners. The writer condemns this as a partial and one-sided measure. By far the greater portion of the population of Calcutta being Hindus, it is just and proper that the Hindu Commissioners should form a majority in the Municipality. It will be difficult to find men better qualified for municipal business and more unselfish than the Hindu Commissioners. In a self-governed Corporation the influence of unselfish men cannot fail to assert itself. If the Anglo-Indian merchants and traders are really unselfish men, they will stand a good chance of being elected. Let them not, therefore, resort to crooked ways in order to get themselves represented on the Municipal Board.

The new Municipal Bill.

SAMAYA,
Feb. 3rd, 1888.

59. The *Samaya*, of the 3rd February, thus objects to the proposal to incorporate a portion of the Suburbs within the Calcutta Municipality:—

The Calcutta Municipal Bill.

1. Admitting that the limits of the large cities in the world require to be extended from time to time, it cannot be allowed that any such necessity has arisen in regard to Calcutta. There are still many insanitary

places within the limits of Calcutta itself; the wants of Calcutta are still very numerous, and no one can tell how long it will take to supply those wants. Who shall therefore say that the time has come for extending the limits of Calcutta? It is said that the extension of the municipal limits of the town has become necessary for the sake of improving its sanitary condition. But how will things fare in those portions of the Suburbs which will not be incorporated within the limits of the Corporation of Calcutta? If the municipal area requires to be enlarged for the purpose of improving the health of the present town, how will the health of the enlarged area, with bad municipal areas around it, be kept?

2. It should also be considered, in connection with this amalgamation scheme, whether the people of the incorporated portions of the Suburbs will be able to pay taxes at the increased rates prevailing within the town. Again, more money than can be raised by municipal taxation will be required for the purpose of improving the sanitary condition of the portion of the Suburbs which will be incorporated in the Corporation of Calcutta, and where is that money to come from?

3. The Committee which sat to report on the amalgamation scheme during the administration of Sir Rivers Thompson had no choice in the matter, as they were distinctly told by Sir Rivers that amalgamation having been decided upon, they were only to determine what portions of the Suburbs should be incorporated within the municipal area of the town. Let the public then judge whether the question of amalgamation was properly discussed by that Committee.

4. The increase of the municipal area will also subject the people of Calcutta, who are already overburdened with taxation, to increased municipal rates.

5. Another objection to the amalgamation scheme is that, as the best part of the Suburbs will be incorporated in the Calcutta Municipality, the income of the residual Suburban Municipality that will lie over will be greatly reduced, and so the residual municipality will not have sufficient funds to keep up public health within its own limits.

6. The proposal made by the late Sir Rivers Thompson to include the new docks at Kidderpore within the municipal area of the town, if carried into effect, will prove disastrous to the health of the town. That would not have been the case if the docks had been situated on the north of Calcutta. For here the wind is northerly only during four months in the year, and southerly during the remaining 8 months.

Sir Stuart Bayley should therefore abandon the amalgamation scheme. The health of the Suburbs may be improved by the Magistrate of the District, who is the head of the Suburban Municipality, looking after the affairs of that Municipality more carefully than he has hitherto done.

60. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 4th February, hopes that Government will give its best attention to the memorial of the local *Anjuman-i-Islamia* regarding the new Calcutta Municipal Bill. Whatever view the European community may take of that Bill, it is clear that that Bill, if passed into law, will very injuriously affect the Mahomedan community of Calcutta.

61. The *Bangabasi*, of the 4th February, referring to the discussion on the report of the Select Committee on the Calcutta Municipal Bill, observes that the amalgamation of the Suburbs with the town is calculated to prove disadvantageous to both the town and the Suburbs. Those residing in the Suburbs will have to pay heavier taxes than at present if the amalgamation is effected. Dr. Guru Das Banerjee is opposed to the amalgamation, and his opponents in the Council cannot apparently assail the correctness of his view. Dr. Sircar is of opinion that the extension of the drainage system

URDU GUIDE,
Feb. 4th, 1888.

BANGABASI,
Feb. 4th, 1888

into the Suburbs as a necessary consequence of the proposed amalgamation will lead to outbreaks of very fatal diseases. Dr. Sircar's view of the matter is quite correct.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

62. The *Som Prakash*, of the 6th February, is surprised that the Select Committee of the Viceregal Legislative Council on the Bill to impose a duty on petroleum

does not contain a single native member. The decision of such a Committee cannot be satisfactory to all parties. It is hoped that a native member will be added to the Committee.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

63. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 6th February, disapproves of the manner in which the Calcutta Municipal Bill is going to be amended. The proposed law will deprive the Calcutta Municipality of many privileges which even mofussil municipalities enjoy. The proposed amalgamation of the Suburbs with the town is also open to serious objection. The amalgamation will be advantageous to the residents of Bhowanipore, but the residents of Baranagar and Taligunge will remain in the same condition as at present. The cost of extending the drainage system and of laying gas and water-pipes in the Suburbs will also be very heavy, and will necessitate the imposition of heavy rates on the Suburban population. The income of the Calcutta Municipality is 28 lakhs, and that of the Suburbs only 6 lakhs. And this additional income of 6 lakhs will be wholly inadequate to meet the enormously increased requirements of the amalgamation. The amalgamation will, in fact, serve only to increase the number of European and Mahomedan Commissioners; and Local Self-Government will lose its very essence if the number of nominated Commissioners is increased, as the Bill proposes to do. Sir Stuart Bayley is requested not to pass the Bill in its present form.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

DARUSSALTANAT,
Jan. 31st, 1888.

64. The *Darussaltanat*, of the 31st January, says that a jagir worth Rs. 24,000 having become vacant in the State of Bhopal by the death of its last owner, Sir Lepel Griffin urged the Begum to bestow it on her daughter—a proposal which is not agreeable to Her Highness. Surely, Sir Lepel had no business to interfere in such a matter, or to ask the Begum to do anything against her will.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 1st, 1888.

65. The *Sahachar*, of the 1st February, says that the Viceroy has thanked the Maharaja of Bhurtpur for his offer of 9 lakhs to Government, although he has not yet decided whether the offer should be accepted or not. The writer thinks that the offer should not be accepted. The income of the Bhurtpur State is only 28 lakhs—less than the income of the Calcutta Municipality—and hardly sufficient for its own purposes.

SAHACHAR.

66. The same paper is disinclined to believe the statement made by Sir Lepel Griffin in Bhopal. the *Morning Post* of Allahabad that Sir Lepel Griffin's object in visiting Bhopal is to settle an allowance upon the heiress-apparent of that State. What special need was there for making such an arrangement between the mother and her daughter? It would appear therefore that the statements published by the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* are not altogether without foundation. On the present occasion Sir Lepel had interviews only with the Begum's daughter and the Begum's son-in-law, and he did not permit any one except men of the Begum's daughter's party to approach him. He did not pay a single regular visit to the Begum. These and other reports, tending to show that Sir Lepel Griffin and his supporters are labouring to produce internal disunion in the State of Bhopal, and to sow discord between the Begum and her daughter,

do not appear to be entirely baseless. The writer's distrust of Sir Lepel Griffin as a Political Officer is growing stronger. A man like Sir Lepel should not be permitted to remain in this country. Sir Lepel is bringing about internal discord in the Native States, and is setting the Mahomedans against the Hindus.

67. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 3rd February, says, on the authority of the *Mirror* newspaper, that when Sir Ranadip of Nepal was murdered, Narendra Vikrama Saha, uncle of His Highness the Maharaja of Nepal, sought shelter in the British Residency; but the Resident, Colonel Bickerley, refused him the protection asked for, and expelled him from the Residency. Fie! Fie! What meanness was that! To expel a man who seeks shelter from enemies who want to take his life!

PRAJA BANDHU,
Feb. 3rd, 1888.

68. The *Sanjivani*, of the 4th February, hopes that Government will enlighten the public in connection with the story told by a correspondent of the *Daily News* that an attempt was made by a respectable Nepalese gentleman on the life of the late Resident of Nepal, Mr. Girdlestone.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 4th, 1888.

69. A correspondent of the *Bangabasi*, of the 4th February, says that the present condition of the people of Cooch Behar is most deplorable. Many people have left the Maharajah's State and settled elsewhere. The last two survey operations have ruined many people, and a third survey has commenced, which is calculated to reduce the people to a state of starvation. The State is in a most mismanaged condition. The Maharajah and Maharanees are busy making themselves merry, and think not how their poor subjects are faring. The treasury is empty.

BANGABASI,
Feb. 4th, 1888.

70. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 6th February, says that the arrival of the Prime Minister of Nepal in Calcutta of the Prime Minister of Nepal has given rise to speculation of various kinds, and hopes that Government will not concern itself with anything that it may hear regarding the condition of Nepal, and that it will leave that State to itself.

URDU GUIDE,
Feb. 6th, 1888.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

71. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 31st January, says that Mr. Cox, the new Magistrate of Ranigunge, is a noble-minded officer, who will be able to do much good to the people of that place if he stays there long.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 31st, 1888.

72. The *Darussaltanat*, of the 31st January, says that the coolies in Assam will know no alleviation of their sufferings unless Government interferes in their behalf and keeps the tea-planters in check. Cases of brutal outrage on coolie women, committed by tea-planters, are very frequent; but there is at present no means whatever of bringing those who commit such offences to justice, as they are in most cases supported by the Magistrates who espouse their cause and let them escape scot-free.

DARUSSALTANAT,
Jan. 31st, 1888.

73. The *Sahachar*, of the 1st February, referring to the serious charge that has been preferred against Mr. Larpent, the Registrar of the Punjab University, says that it would like to know what the Anglo-Indians will say to all this. Could any native Registrar have committed such a base offence?

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 1st, 1888.

SANACHAR.
Feb. 1st, 1888.

74. The same paper hears with pleasure that the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality are raising subscriptions for a portrait of Mr. Turnbull, their late Secretary, to be hung up as a memorial in the Town Hall. Mr. Turnbull was a very good and impartial man; and the writer will be glad to see something done to perpetuate the memory of so good a man.

SANACHAR.

75. The same paper says that something should be done to put a stop to cow-slaughter and to increase the number and improve the breed of cattle. The decision of the Judges of the Allahabad High Court in the recent case of cow-killing is very unsatisfactory. The law should be amended. The meeting that was held recently at Allahabad to promote this good object was largely attended by influential Hindus, as well as by many Mahomedans, and also by some Europeans. Mr. Howard, an Allahabad Barrister, strongly supports the movement, and has signed the memorial that has been sent up to Government praying for a law for the prevention of cow-slaughter.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
Feb. 1st, 1888.

76. A correspondent of the *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 1st February, complains of the scarcity of good drinking water at Amlasadarpoore, a village in the Kusteia sub-division of the Nuddea district. The people suffer from many fatal diseases for want of good drinking water. Government is requested to remove this grievance.

BANGABÁST,
Feb. 4th, 1888.

77. Referring to the case of cow-slaughter recently decided by the Allahabad High Court (see Report on Native Papers for week ending the 28th January, paragraph 45), the *Bangabást*, of the 4th February, says that a memorial has been submitted to the Viceroy on the subject by the residents of Allahabad. The decision of the Allahabad Court, which rests on technical grounds, will wound Hindu feelings; and the encouragement which that Court has indirectly given to cow-slaughter will lead to disastrous consequences. Interference in the religious beliefs of the Hindus will inflame them, and serious political disturbances will ensue. It is against good policy to set class against class, and to encourage Mahomedans to slaughter cows, and thereby to wound Hindu feelings. Cow-slaughter should be prevented as much as possible in an agricultural country like India, where the cow is so very useful to the agriculturist. Government ought to put an end to unnecessary cow-slaughter, and if any modification of the existing law on the subject is deemed necessary for doing this, such modification should at once be made. The *Englishman* newspaper is inciting Government not to listen to the prayer of the Hindus against cow-slaughter. But the *Englishman* is devoid of common sense and foresight, and the Viceroy and his Councillors should not listen to what it says on this subject.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 4th, 1888.

78. The *Sanjivani*, of the 4th February, says that, as advantage is likely to be taken by the salt-dealers of the recent increase of the salt duty to considerably enhance the price of that article, it will be obliged by its readers furnishing it with information regarding the bazar prices of salt in different parts of the country.

SANJIVANI.

79. The same paper says that the English residents of Madras are a very different set of people from those of Bengal. They eagerly joined the Congress movement, and the news has come that a Madras volunteer officer has expressed his willingness to get natives enlisted as volunteers, and that the Madras volunteers, as a body, are willing to take native members into their corps.

SANJIVANI.
Feb. 4th, 1888.

80. The same paper says that, unless the sale of patent medicines, now so extensive in this country, is put a stop to, medical registration, as proposed by

Medical registration.

the Calcutta Medical Society, will serve no good purpose. For, if medical registration is sanctioned, the quacks who now infest the country will every one of them re-appear as discoverers of patent medicines, and the number of those quacks who now prescribe medicines of the type of "my mixture," "my tonic," &c., will greatly increase; and the public will, on the other hand, be deprived of the help it now receives from kabirajes and experienced doctors without diplomas.

81. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 6th February, fully supports the resolutions arrived at by the meeting held at Allahabad, protesting against

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.
Feb 6th, 1888

Cow-killing.

the finding of the Allahabad High Court that the killing of cows is not a criminal offence.

ASSAM PAPERS.

82. The *Silchar*, of the 30th January, says that the health of the town of Silchar has greatly declined in consequence of the establishment of outstills

SILCHAR,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

Outstills in Silchar.

within its limits. It is horrible to think that there are so many as five outstills within that small town! Will the Municipality and the Health Committee do nothing to improve the health of the place? Government is then addressed in the following terms:—"O you British rulers! who are proud of your civilization, what is the good of making our grievances known to you? You will not redress them. We know well that you and your Indian subjects stand to each other in the relation of eaters and things that are eaten. Englishmen are strong, Indians are weak. Englishmen are educated, Indians are uneducated. So long as this dissimilarity exists, how can there be peace or fellowship between the two peoples? Alas! it rends one's heart to think of that disastrous day, the 12th of August 1765! A strange intellectual fatuousness must have seized the Emperor Shah Alam on that day! For it was on that disastrous day that the Emperor Shah Alam conferred upon the English the Dewanee of Bengal, Behar and Orissa! In other words, it was on that day that the bright sun of India's freedom was enveloped for ever in dense dark clouds!

83. A correspondent of the same paper praises Mr. Steinberg, Assistant Commissioner of Hailakandi, for his establishment of a model school at Algapur at his own cost. The profound interest which

SILCHAR.

Mr. Steinberg, Assistant Commissioner of Hailakandi.

Mr. Steinberg has displayed in the cause of education has made him popular with all classes of people. Mr. Steinberg possesses many good qualities. He is an impartial and just officer, and he held the Deputy Commissionership of Cachar for some months with great credit.

The trade of Assam.

84. The same paper makes the following observations on the trade of Assam:—

SILCHAR.

The chief article of export from Assam being tea, nearly the whole of the income of the Assam export trade goes to the planters; and as the coolies working in the tea-gardens are men from other Indian provinces, their earnings do not benefit the people of Assam. So that, though trade brings lakhs of rupees into Assam, it effects no improvement in the condition of the people of Assam themselves. Instead of improving, their condition is getting worse day after day.

One year's failure of the crops in Sylhet and Cachar necessitated the importation of grain to the value of 8½ lakhs of rupees; and this 8½ lakhs was so much money lost by Assam on that occasion.

The chief exports from Sylhet are lime, paddy and oranges; and the export trade in every one of these articles has declined of late, as is shewn by the figures quoted below:—In 1885-86 paddy worth Rs. 36,28,852 was exported from the Surma Valley against paddy worth Rs. 7,48,834 in 1886-87.

Last year oranges worth Rs. 1,96,050 were exported against oranges worth Rs. 51,405 more in the year before last. Similarly, in 1885-86 lime worth Rs. 8,39,521 was exported from Surma Valley against lime worth Rs. 5,95,809 in 1886-87.

Thus last year the value of the export trade in Upper Assam was less than that of 1885-86 by Rs. 71,71,563. In Lower Assam, though the value of the import trade has increased by Rs. 30,75,342, the export trade has declined by Rs. 28,80,124 compared with the year 1885-86. This decline in the export trade is to be deplored.

SILCHAR.
Jan. 30th, 1888.

85. The same paper says that, as the number of public women is increasing in the town of Silchar, they should be removed from the respectable quarters of the town. The public women residing in respectable quarters at Janiganj, Tarapur, Ambikapur, Malugram and other places should also be removed to less frequented localities.

PARIDARSHAK,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

The Moral Education Resolution.

86. The *Paridarshak*, of the 30th January, says that it is impossible for Government to impart religious instruction; and it is not also desirable that Government should interfere in the matter of the religious teaching of the boys. Moral principles are the same in all countries and among all communities; and so purely moral teaching may be imparted by Government in the Indian schools. But moral instruction, in order to be effective, must be imparted by teachers of unimpeachable character. Sufficient care is not now taken to appoint teachers of good character, and there are consequently few teachers at present in the Indian schools who can be deemed qualified to impart moral instruction. Instances have been known of teachers going to the class-room under the influence of liquor, of teachers taking part in immoral theatrical performances, and of teachers visiting publicly houses of ill-fame. Surely such teachers cannot mould the character of the youth of a country.

PARIDARSHAK.

87. The same paper is sorry to find that good feeling does not exist between the Head-master and the pupils of the Karimgunge school.

PARIDARSHAK.

88. The same paper says that the postal overseer of Moulavibazar has oppressed and ill-treated Charan and Dhaniram, runners serving under him, for refusing to carry his palki. These runners are serving in the Postal Department for seven or eight years. The authorities are requested to look to the matter.

PARIDARSHAK.

89. The Munshibazar correspondent of the same paper says that some Mahomedans are doing serious mischief by stealing into people's houses and skinning live cows in Bhanugatch pergunnah. The authorities are requested to look to the matter.

PARIDARSHAK.

90. Another correspondent of the same paper says that post-cards and stamps are not sold in the morning at the Sunamgunge post office, and so much public inconvenience is produced. If there be a rule prohibiting the sale of postage stamps in the morning it should be cancelled.

The Sunamgunge Post Office.

91. The same paper disapproves of the proposal of the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet to fix the number of Commissioners for the local municipality

The Sylhet Municipality.

at ten, seven being elected, namely, one for each ward, and three being nominated by Government. If this proposal be carried into effect, there will be inequality of representation in the different wards. Ward No. 1, for instance, where the number of voters will not exceed 20 or 25, will have the same representation as Ward No. 7, in which the number of voters will not be less than 200. It is hoped that the Chief Commissioner will not sanction the proposal.

PARIDARSHAK.
Jan. 30th, 1888.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 11th February 1888.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and titles, including "The Hon. Mr. Justice" and "The Hon. Mr. Justice".